



## State Board of Education Request for Freeway School Accreditation

<b>Name of Requesting School:</b>	Holy Cross Lutheran School
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<b>Board Date:</b>	November 4, 2009	<b>Grade Span:</b>	K-4
<b>Education Director:</b>	Michelle Searcy	<b>Public or Private:</b>	Private
<b>Location Address:</b>	8115 Oaklandon Road	<b>Enrollment:</b>	79
<b>City/Town:</b>	Indianapolis, Indiana 46236	<b>Targeted Student Population:</b>	Elementary Students

### Indiana Department of Education Division of Educator Licensing and School Accreditation

The following executive summary has been compiled by the Division of Educator Licensing and Accreditation for use by the Indiana State Board of Education. It includes information presented by the school during the accreditation process, potential legal standard issues, and any other information collected during the process that may impact accreditation.

#### Summary of Materials Presented to the Board:

**Identity:** "Holy Cross Lutheran School is an outreach ministry of Holy Cross Lutheran Church. The school first offered preschool classes in the school year 1991-1992 and quickly began to grow and expand, meeting an apparent need in the area for Christian based, early childhood education...Holy Cross Lutheran School is a "standards based" school. It serves a well educated client base with high expectations of their children and the schools they attend. It is the goal of Holy Cross to be up to date with brain research and innovative teaching methods, and to be progressive in its curriculum in order to meet and exceed Indiana academic standards."

**Attendance:** Holy Cross Lutheran currently maintains a 90% attendance rate.

**Graduation:** N/A

**Benchmarks:** "Holy Cross Lutheran School has several benchmarks in place to monitor student achievement. The Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) Measures of Academic Progress is administered in the fall and spring of each year for all elementary students. In addition, Star Early Literacy and/or Star Literacy testing is completed in the fall and spring. Holy Cross will administer the Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DAR) 3 times during the school year, after week 6, week 18 week and week 32. Accelerated Math Assessments will continually monitor students' progress throughout the year. In addition, upon approval of this petition, Holy Cross will begin administering the ISTEP in the spring of 2010. This will then become the baseline score for our continued improvement. Attendance data will be tracked through the school management software."

**Staffing:** "Holy Cross Lutheran School employs an administrator, principal, two office support staff, six primary teachers, and four instructional assistants in the elementary school. Also employed are a

part- time counselor/resource teacher, a music teacher and a PE teacher. In addition, the preschool that feeds into the elementary school employs 10 teachers and 13 instructional assistants. The maximum class size for elementary classrooms is 24 students, with the largest class currently at 22 students.”

**Waiver Requests:**

1. IC 20-26-12-24, IC 20-30-5-9 and IC 20-3035-11 addressing health, safety and substance abuse. Curriculum in this area is included as part of the schools faith-based curriculum, reflecting Lutheran values.
2. IC 20-26-12-24, IC 20-26-12-28 and 511 IAC 6.1-5-5 regarding textbook adoption. “Although Holy Cross currently utilizes textbooks from the state approved adoption list, the flexibility to utilize science curriculums that have a religious component at some time in the future is desired.”
3. IC 20-31-4 concerning the performance based accreditation system.

**Issues:** Teacher Licensing.

**Recommendations: Five Year Accreditation**

**Rationale:** Most teachers are currently licensed in Indiana. There are two holding expired Indiana licenses and are working toward renewal. After a site visit and discussions with their leadership staff, we recommend full five-year accreditation.

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